

and hostess which quite amused me. We breakfasted and dined with them either alone or with only other members of the family present, owing to the court being in mourning for the King of England. This was a great relief to us. They were thoroughly nice people, and we enjoyed being with them, as it was interesting to get their ideas; although we found that there was no use trying to talk of books with these or any other of the royalties, excepting the Italians and the Queen of Belgium. At dinner the Crown Princess turned to me and said: "Will you let me ask a question which I have no right to ask! " I answered: "Certainly," and she said: "Is it true that Mrs. Eoosevelt would not meet the 'Grand Duke Boris when he was in America; and why?" I laughed and told her I had not the slightest objection to answering; that the Grand Duke in question had led a scandalous life in America, quite openly taking women whose character was not even questionable to public places, and behaving in restaurants and elsewhere so that the police would have been warranted in interfering. We were not at the White House but at Sagamore Hill at the time, and the Eussian Ambassador asked permission to bring the Grand Duke to see me, coming over from Newport in a yacht. The request, coming in such a way, I did not feel I could refuse, and told the Ambassador to bring the Grand Duke to lunch; but I made up my mind that I would make the meeting as obviously formal as possible; and Mrs. Eoosevelt, who more than shared my

feelings and
regarded his presence in our private house as
both a scandal
and an insult, said that she intended to go
out, as she saw
no necessity why she should meet him, and
her absence
would emphasize the entirely formal character
of the recep-
tion. Accordingly out she went. The
Ambassador and the
Grand Duke were both disturbed by her
absence and the
former asked me if she would not return in
time to meet the
Grand Duke, and when I did not answer,
repeated the ques-
tion, whereupon I merely said: "Mrs.
Eoosevelt has gone
out to lunch and is not in the house, Mr.
Ambassador."
Neither Mrs. Eoosevelt nor I ever said
anything on the